

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6058

BILL NUMBER: SB 37

NOTE PREPARED: Oct 24, 2008

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Office of the Child Advocate.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Lanane

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes: (1) the Office of the Child Advocate; and (2) the duties of the Child Advocate, which include taking all possible action to ensure the legal, civil, and special rights of children. This bill also requires the Governor to appoint the Child Advocate. It requires the Child Advocate to submit an annual report.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill creates the Office of the Child Advocate under the Governor's purview. The bill requires the Governor to appoint one Child Advocate to fill the office. The legislation also describes the responsibilities of the Child Advocate.

Under the bill, the Child Advocate is entitled to compensation set by the Governor and approved by the State Budget Agency (SBA). Actual salary will depend on the qualifications of the Child Advocate, the salary set by the Governor, and what SBA approves. This bill will impact state expenditures to provide salary, benefits, and other indirect costs to the Child Advocate.

As of September of 2008, the Office of the Governor did not have any open or vacant positions listed. The average salary paid in the Office of the Governor is approximately \$49,000, with a range of \$20,000 to \$115,000. An Internet job database reveals the average salary of a child advocate to be \$36,000 for the state of Indiana.

Benefits provided in addition to salary include life insurance, Social Security, contributions to the Public Employee's Retirement Fund, disability insurance, and health insurance. For 2010, salary-based benefits are calculated at 19.54% of a full-time employee's salary. The state also contributes a flat amount per employee

for health, dental, and vision insurance in the amount of \$4,743 for single coverage or \$12,991 for family coverage. Additionally, if an employee decides to participate in the deferred compensation program, the state would contribute a maximum of \$273 per person per year.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Office of the Governor, State Budget Agency.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: <http://www.indeed.com/salary?q1=Child+Advocate&l1=Indiana>, State Staffing Report.

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Brumbach, 232-9559.